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## BOISE COMMERCIAL CLUB



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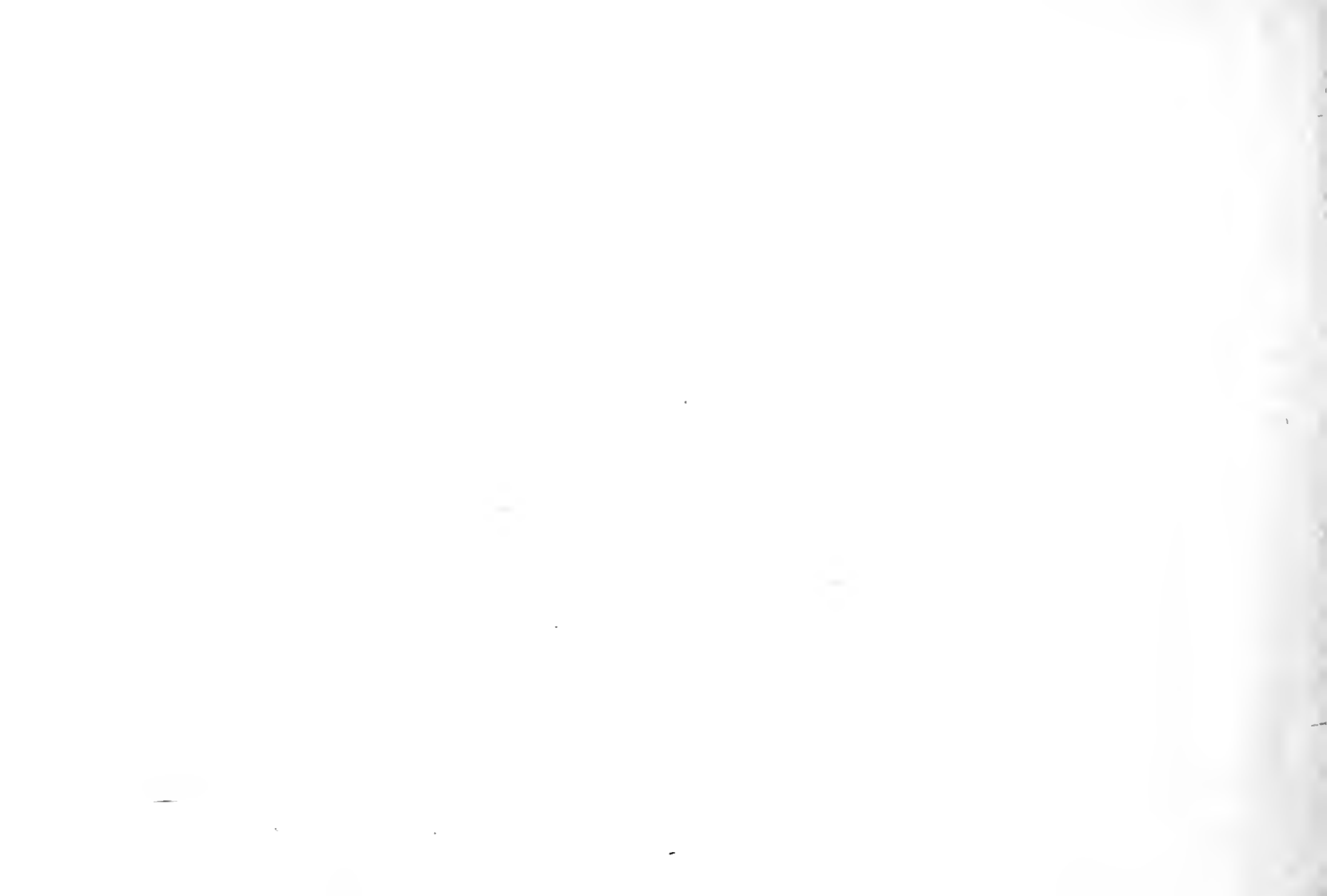
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# BOISE

## IDAHO





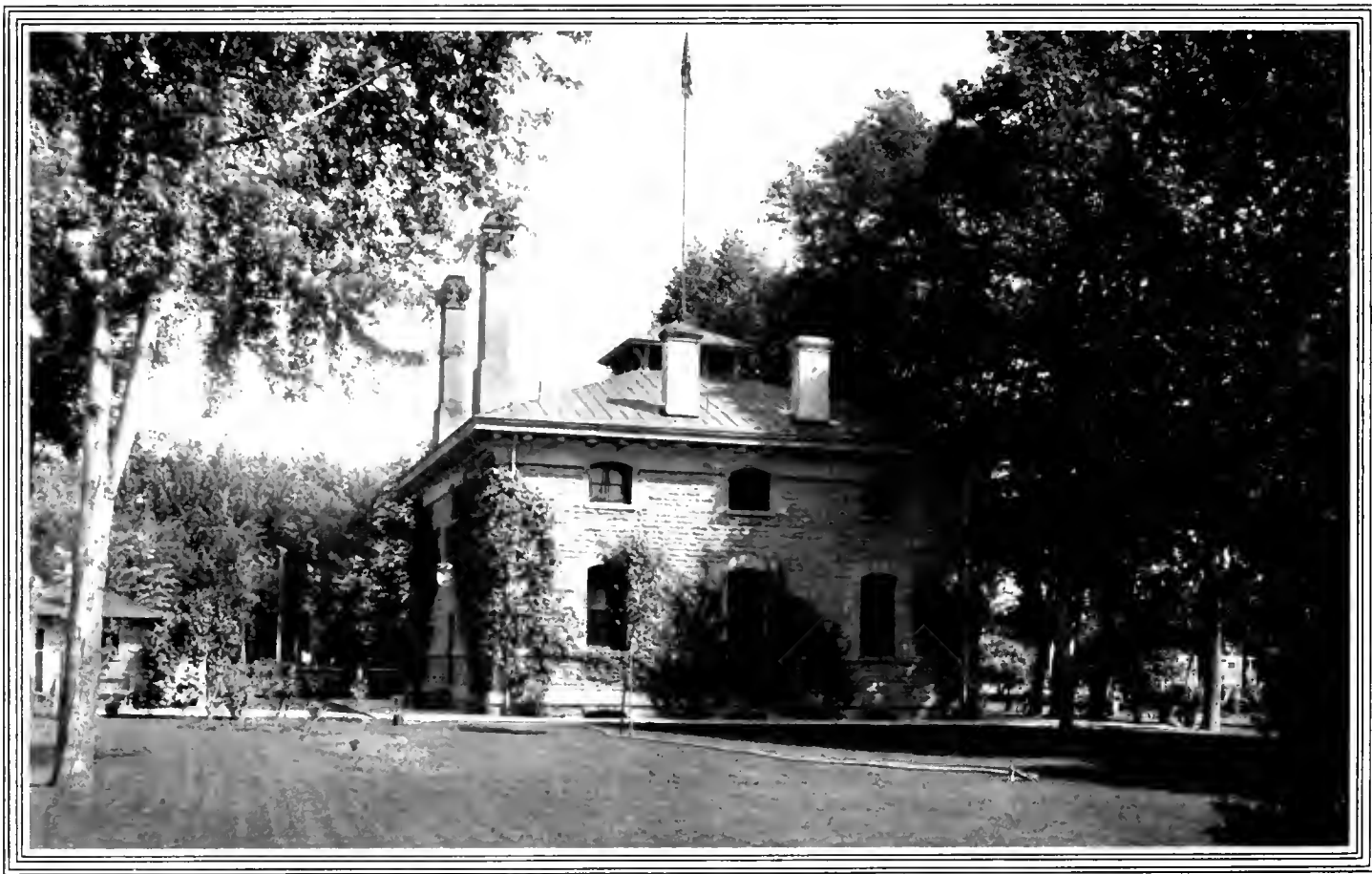


# BOISE, IDAHO



*Oregon Short Line Depot, Boise.*

Published by the Boise Commercial Club, Boise, Idaho,



*United States Assay Office, Boise.*

## FOREWORD



It is the intent of this booklet to present by picture and by written word the advantages offered the Homeseeker by the City of Boise, Idaho, and the region tributary thereto. Its publication is actuated by no desire to nourish the pride of those who already live there, but to unfold for the world—and especially for that large part of the world dissatisfied with its present environments and seeking a new and better place to live—such a plain, straightforward recital of the conditions in and about Boise as will recommend it to the favorable consideration of the prospective settler.

The time has been when the literature exploiting various communities was made up largely of exaggerations. Times have changed, however, and without saying anything of the truthfulness of other such publications, let it be known that the statements of this particular booklet are in scrupulous conformity with facts. That we set forth the best of this glorious land we do not deny. But never is the desire to make a good showing permitted to lead us into enlargements upon the truth. Indeed, there is no temptation to exaggeration. Difficult enough it is to convince the skeptical of the truth without making the matter worse by an indulgence in falsehood.

Read the following pages then, Mr. Homeseeker, believing that what they contain in statement and in illustration is true, and that they contain a message for you—a message that is an invitation and an appeal to come, behold and partake of the abundant opportunities that exist in and about the beautiful city of Boise, Idaho.

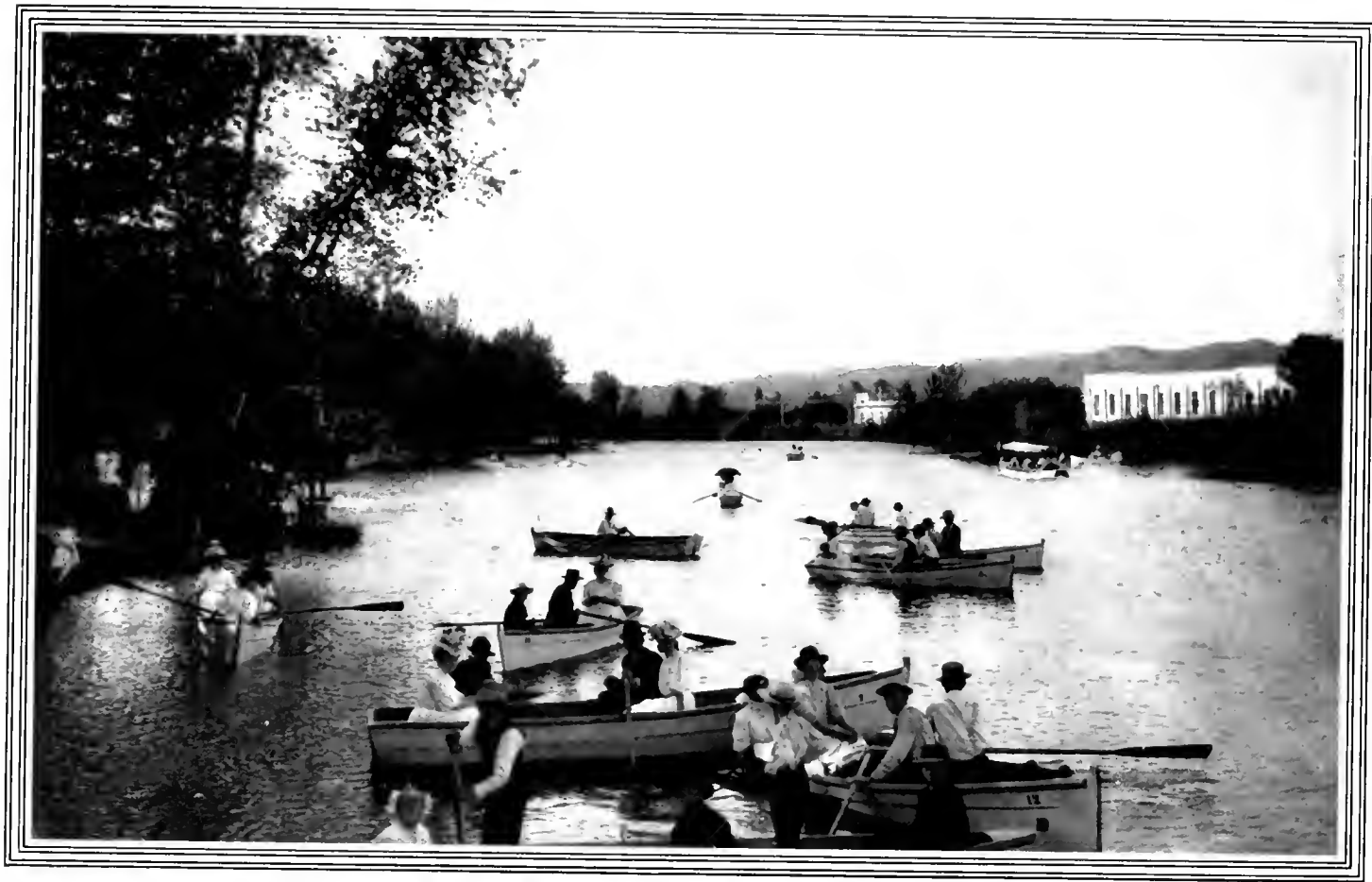
For details not given in this booklet, address “Boise Commercial Club, Boise, Idaho.”



*Boise is surrounded by a country of great fertility and remarkable possibilities. This view shows a fine Holstein dairy ranch near the city.*



*A band of thoroughbred sheep near Boise.*



*Lake in Pierce Park, Boise.*

# BOISE, IDAHO

## A Bit of History



THE birth of Boise was coincident with the historic gold rush of 1862, when it was told with bated breath that the yellow metal, in quantities exceeding the wildest dreams of the prospector, had been found in the mountain fastnesses of Southern Idaho. Idaho City, about 36 miles from Boise, was established, and in 1864, only two years later, had a voting population of 16,000. In eight years the camp produced approximately \$200,000,000.00 in placer gold. In 1863 Fort Boise was established on the Boise River, and in the same year Boise City was laid out on the plain between the fort and the river. In 1890, when Idaho was admitted to the Union, Boise, then with a population of 3,000, was made the capital of the State, and attained, thereby, some degree of public attention. The early years of its existence

were full of the uncertainties and the struggles that characterize the development of every community in a new land. But, surmounting all obstacles, full of faith in the future, believing in themselves and in the glorious region which had been given them as a rich heritage, these sturdy pioneers builded and builded well the firm foundation of the present fair city of Boise and the far fairer city of the future. Upon these foundations is building a city of magnificent proportions, of such beauty and such evident prosperity that those who look back to the struggling settlement of 45 years ago can hardly believe that the Boise of 1863 and of 1908 are one and the same.

This growth, marvelous as it has been, is not the inflated product of any boom or transient conditions, but is the logical, inevitable result of conditions that are as stable as the earth itself.

## The Secret of a City's Greatness



THE secret of why a city is great is, contradictorily, no secret at all, but the working out of natural laws. Generally speaking, a city is great because, by reason of its location, it is the natural market and distributing point for a region of great productivity. As this tributary region develops, so the city will develop.

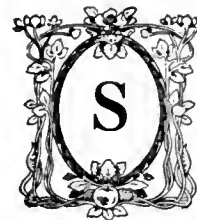


*Business Buildings, Boise.*

Other factors may enter in, as railroads, harbors, etc., but in nine cases out of ten a city grows as the country behind it grows.

The question arises, then, What is the country behind Boise? And it is a pleasure to answer that question. A glance at the map will show that Boise is the unchallenged industrial nucleus and distributing center for a vast territory, bounded, roughly, by the eastern and southern boundaries of the state, reaching up into the "pan handle" on the north and far into Eastern Oregon on the west. This immense territory, nearly 400,000 square miles of potential wealth, is not excelled by any area of equal size in America. Over the wide realm Boise reigns supreme. Of course, there are many other thriving communities, towns that will themselves grow to cities as large as Boise is now; but Boise's place as capital and metropolis is too secure to permit the question of competition ever to arise.

## Southern Idaho



SOUTHERN IDAHO is a rectangular section of country about the size and shape of the state of Kansas. It is bounded by high and rugged mountain chains, which store its water supply and hold it well into the Summer season. The Snake River rises at the northeast corner of this rectangle, flows southwesterly for about 200 miles, turns sharply to the west at American Falls, and after following that course for about 150 miles, it turns northwesterly and leaves the Southern Idaho rectangle at its northwest corner. The mountain boundaries of this section are of granite formation. During the ages





*Street scenes, Boise, showing the Idaho Trust and Savings Bank building on the left, and the Sonna building on the right.*

of the formation of the valley a series of volcanic craters located along its northern boundary sent forth streams of lava, which flowed across it to the southwest. Successive eruptions followed, at periods of ages, and between each there was formed a layer of soil and dis-

integrated rock. Since the last overflow the glacial period has come and gone, and the upper and lower ends of the valley are seared with deep gashes cut by the glaciers, and great moraines of sand and gravel have been left on the surface of the plain. After this period various upheavals



*A Boise Valley Ranch.*



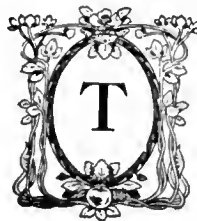
*Pear Orchard near Boise.*

of the earth have thrown up along the borders high ranges of lava mountains and across the center, where is now the great canyon of the Snake River, there is a mighty crack, through the bottom of which now the Snake River rushes and writhes and falls over many precipices, forming some of the most magnificent waterfalls and rapids in the world.

The center of this valley is volcanic ash, mixed with disintegrated lava, and the sand and gravel of the glacial moraines. The lowest point in the valley in Southern Idaho is 2,100 feet, and the highest point some 7,000 feet. The Snake River, with its tributaries, gives the greatest water supply for irrigation of any other equal area in the world.

It is due to this fact that at the present time there are here in course of construction more irrigation projects than any other locality can boast, and all of them are meritorious because there is water for all and to spare. Southern Idaho has now practically 3,000,000 acres of these rich lands under water, which will mean an area with a productivity inferior to no state in the Union. This fact also suggests something of the opportunity that Southern Idaho offers the Homeseeker who is alive to the situation. It is the successful farmer who has appreciated such conditions in the past and made the most of them. While Idaho does not present the same opportunity that it did to the pioneer years ago, the opportunity of today is, nevertheless, most attractive and, in many respects, greater than that of the past. The newcomer today has the experience and work of the past to guide him, and when the developments in irrigation are considered, his opportunities are almost infinitely greater than were those of the pioneer who blazed the way for the homeseeker of today.

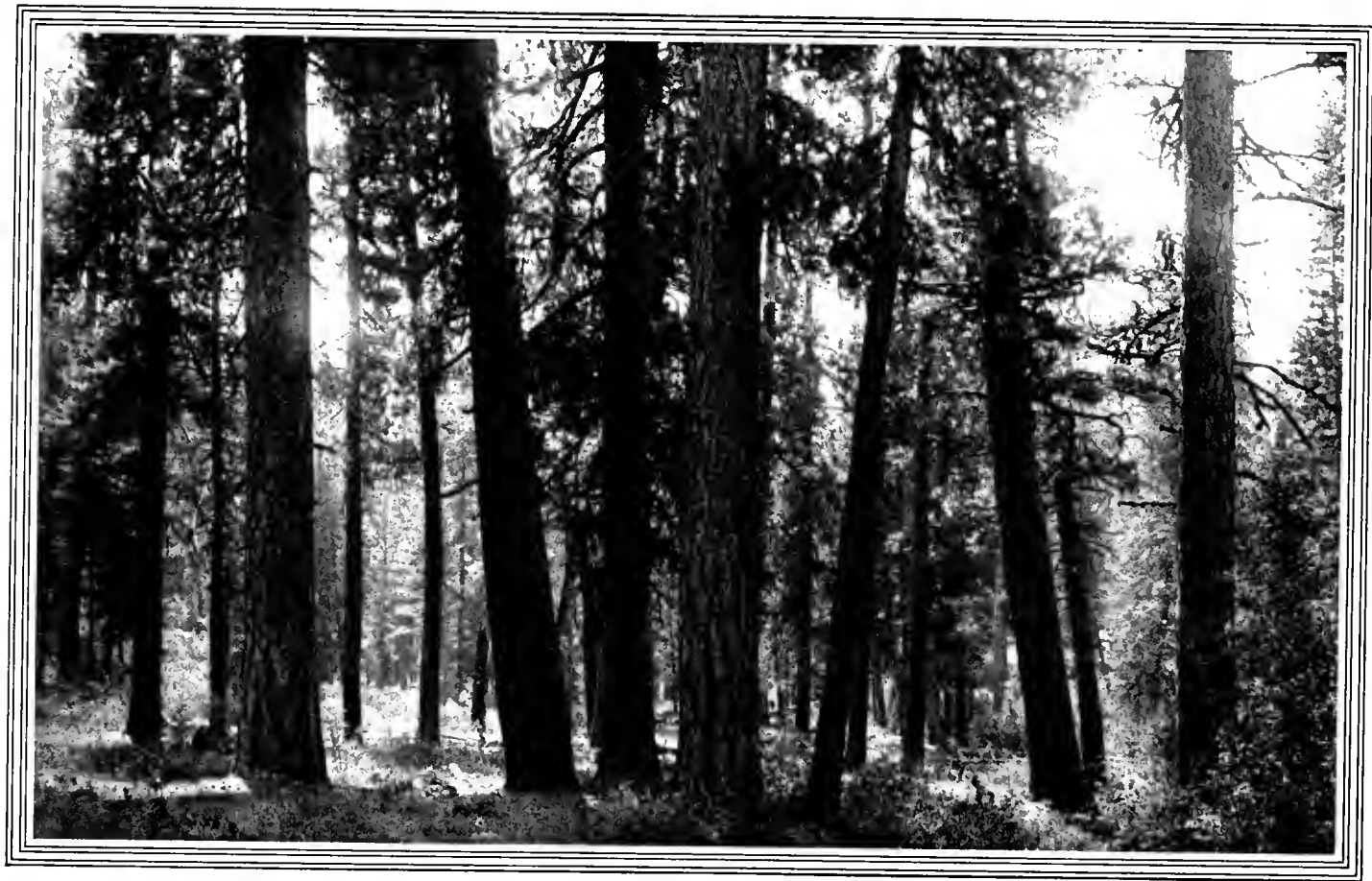
## The Boise Valley



THE headwaters of the North Fork of the Boise River are in Boise County, toward the center of the state; those of the South Fork in Elmore County. United, the augmented current flows westward to its confluence with the Snake. Before it empties into that tortuous stream, the Boise checks its headlong course to traverse more leisurely the beautiful valley to which it gives its name.

For a quarter of a century and more this valley, with land of the highest degree of fertility, has been under successful cultivation. The early settlers, individually, or by twos and threes, constructed headgates and canals, diverting the waters of the river to irrigate their farms. The results have been phenomenal, almost passing belief. Such crops as the new settlers had never dreamed of were produced with unfailing regularity. All of the elements seemed to have conspired to produce conditions most favorable to plant life. Nearly all the products of the temperate zone grow abundantly: the cereals, excepting corn; grasses, especially timothy, clover and alfalfa; fruits, to a degree of success hardly attained except in the few most famed districts of the Northwest; small fruits and berries; potatoes and garden vegetables; and, last, but far from least, sugar beets.

The development of stock-raising followed close upon agriculture and horticulture. Sheep and cattle were brought down from the great public ranges to be finished on the succulent grasses of the meadow bottoms. The dairy cow was introduced and milk in increased volume



*Forest near Boise.*

and richness was the result. It was found possible to fit hogs for market on alfalfa without a kernel of grain. Fine horses were bred. Poultry was raised to excellent profit.

In a word, it was found that anything that could be done with land elsewhere could be done equally well in the Boise Valley and many things a great deal better. Today the valley is a highly developed agricultural region, but it has by no means reached its highest degree of pro-

ductivity. Until the last few years general farming has been practiced, but now it is becoming evident that the land is too valuable for ordinary crops. So the large ranches are being broken up into units of ten and twenty acres, where intensified agriculture is practiced. As a result, the population of the valley has increased wonderfully, and, as the movement continues, it is bound to be doubled and trebled.

Indications point to the fact that the movement westward will be accentuated during the next few years, and with the increase in population land values will correspondingly increase. It is certain that to the farmer of the East or Middle West, dissatisfied with climatic and other hard conditions, there will never come a greater opportunity than is to be found today in the West, and especially in this section. "Tomorrow" land values may be—doubtless will be—higher, and land more difficult to secure. The time is NOW to go westward, and the wise man will carefully balance conditions before making a final choice. The region tributary to Boise confidently puts forward its claims because of the facts just set forth.

Later on, in this publication, the various crops and industries mentioned above will be taken up specifically and given detailed discussion. Here the intent has been only to produce a comprehensive outline of the conditions in the Boise Valley directly contributory to Boise.

At the head of the Valley, nestled up against the great hills that gird its northern boundary, is the city, capital of the state of Idaho, seat of Ada County, metropolis of a vast realm of incalculable potential wealth, the home of 28,000 healthy, prosperous and progressive people, proud of their city and its place in the development of the great Northwest, and confident of the greatness of its future.



*Residence of U. S. Senator W. E. Borah, Boise.*

## Irrigation



BEYOND question, the greatest factor in the development of the region tributary to Boise is Irrigation. Indeed, there is small doubt that it is the largest factor in the development of the United States today. To one who has lived or traveled much in that vast region between the Cascades and the Missouri-Mississippi Valley, Irrigation presents nothing that is new or strange. But to the Easterner, or the inhabitant of the Middle West, there is much in it that is novel, if not a little mysterious. On any one of the great transeontinental lines the traveler crossing the great American Desert beholds vast stretches of arid land, producing nothing but sage brush, supporting no life but the coyote and the buzzard. Not unnaturally he concludes that this seeming sterility is due to a lack of fertile quality in the soil. On the contrary, the soil is the most fertile in the world. All that is needed to make it spring into luxuriant vegetation is water. Sage brush thrives merely because Nature, abhorring waste, has fashioned the sage—with the least possible leaf surface, therefore losing the least possible moisture by evaporation—to thrive in a land where the rainfall is next to nothing. The absence of adequate rainfall is due to the fact that the great moisture-bearing clouds, swept eastward from the Pacific Ocean, and coming into contact with the mountains, are carried upward and made to precipitate their moisture by the increased altitude. Thus the thirsty regions lying east of the mountains are robbed of their due proportion of rainfall and are left arid.

From before the dawn of history man has understood and applied the principles of irrigation. In the valleys of the Ganges, the Euphrates, the Nile, centers of the first great civilizations, extensive systems of artificial watering were carried on. In South and Central America and Mexico irrigation was practiced, and in Arizona evidences of systems for artificial watering of considerable magnitude have been discovered. So, instead of being an experiment, it is, so far as its antiquity



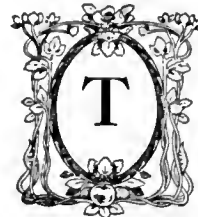
*Postoffice, Boise.*

is concerned, about as far from it as anything that can be conceived of.

It is but of comparatively recent years that any considerable attention has been given to irrigation in the United States, and still more recently has it been taken up by the United States Government. But with the occupancy of practically all the humid lands, and the successful application of irrigation by private enterprise, public attention has been won, capital interested, legislation enacted, until now millions of acres have been seized back

from the desert, millions upon millions of capital invested and homes provided for a million people. And this is but the beginning. In every direction the "ditch" of the irrigator is extending its potent arm and reaching out tiny life-giving fingers to reclaim the soil from the desert. The extent to which irrigation may be carried is limited only by the available water supply. And there is no saying how far, when the need arises, the engineering skill or the mechanical daring of man will go toward overcoming the obstacles that Nature has interposed.

### Irrigation in Idaho



O the State of Idaho irrigation is of peculiar significance. This great commonwealth is practically all arid or semi-arid. On the other hand, by reason of her great available water supply, and the topographical conditions that prevail, Idaho provides an exceptional field for the effectuation of great irrigation undertakings. The Federal Government has taken up the work, and has launched reclamation enterprises of tremendous magnitude, and has passed laws making it possible for individuals or corporations to enter upon like enterprises.

In Southern Idaho alone, at the beginning of the present year, 2,931,753 acres were under canals, and over half that amount actually irrigated. There were 8,876 miles of canals constructed at a cost of \$19,907,721.00. And since that time projects involving hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of acres more have been launched, until the sum total simply staggers the imagination. More



*Pressed Brick Plant near Boise.*





*Placer Mining in the Boise Basin.*

money has been spent in Idaho for reclamation purposes than in any other state in the Union.

Mention has been made of federal legislation affecting irrigation. By far the most important of these statutes and one representing the greatest possible benefit to capitalist and investor alike is the "Carey Act."

### The Carey Act



REDUCED to its lowest terms, this wise and beneficent statute provides that, a certain tract of Government land having been determined upon as suitable for reclamation, the corporation desiring to construct irrigation works thereon, for the purpose of reclaiming the land under the act, files with the State Board of Land Commissioners its application, together with its proposal for constructing the works and all other details as to source of water, estimate of cost of construction, terms of water rental, etc. These plans accepted by the State Board, application is made to the Secretary of the Interior for a segregation of the lands embraced in the application and an adequate bond having been given, with the final approval of the Secretary of State, the project is authorized. The law contains further clauses affecting the terms of sale, insuring the immediate settlement and cultivation of the land, and providing an effectual preventive against the speculative holding of large tracts of land.

The stimulative effect of this enactment was immediately felt, and no state has profited so greatly as Idaho. Already the million acres, the maximum extent to which

any one state may segregate lands under the Carey Act, has been exhausted. The last session of Congress allotted another million acres of Carey lands to Idaho.

Conspicuous among the various projects benefiting by the Carey Act is the Twin Falls project, on the Snake River, in Southern Idaho—the largest and most successful enterprise of its kind in the world. The development of the north and south banks of the river represents a segregation of 425,000 acres, over half of which has been settled and over three-fourths sold. The Salmon River and Wood River projects and others bring the total acreage involved up to nearly the original million.

Although this immense development is only indirectly tributary to Boise, yet there is no denying the fact that the city does profit tremendously by the wonderful expansion and upbuilding of the country to the south of her confines. "Whatever helps Idaho helps Boise" is a truism.

### The Payette-Boise Project



IN addition to irrigation by private enterprise and irrigation operations under the Carey Act, the U. S. Government, fully appreciating the tremendous value to the Nation of such undertakings, has directly engaged in irrigating enterprises, has already appropriated over \$30,000,000.00 for this purpose, and is preparing to expend as much more in this most profitable form of investment. In Idaho the two great government projects are the Minidoka project, involving 130,000 to 150,000 acres, and, of vital and incalculable importance to Boise, the Payette-Boise project, with an irrigable area of 372,000 acres, and



*Scene on the Boise River.*

every acre directly or indirectly tributary to Boise. Of this the "South Side Division" of 130,000 acres is practically completed, this area being largely the wide bench lands of mesas adjacent to, or a part of, the Boise Valley. The source of the water supply is the Boise River, the discharge being regulated by storage works at the headwaters of the canals. Just completed also is the great reservoir in the Boise Valley, with an area of 9,000 acres, which will impound water sufficient to irrigate 120,000 acres of land.



*Odd Fellows' Temple, Boise.*

These enterprises are so vast and the figures involved of such magnitude that to add to them would be but to produce confusion in the mind of the reader. From these statements, however, some comprehension may be gained of the immensity of the irrigation projects in Idaho, and especially in the region that looks to Boise as its industrial center, market place, and distributing point.

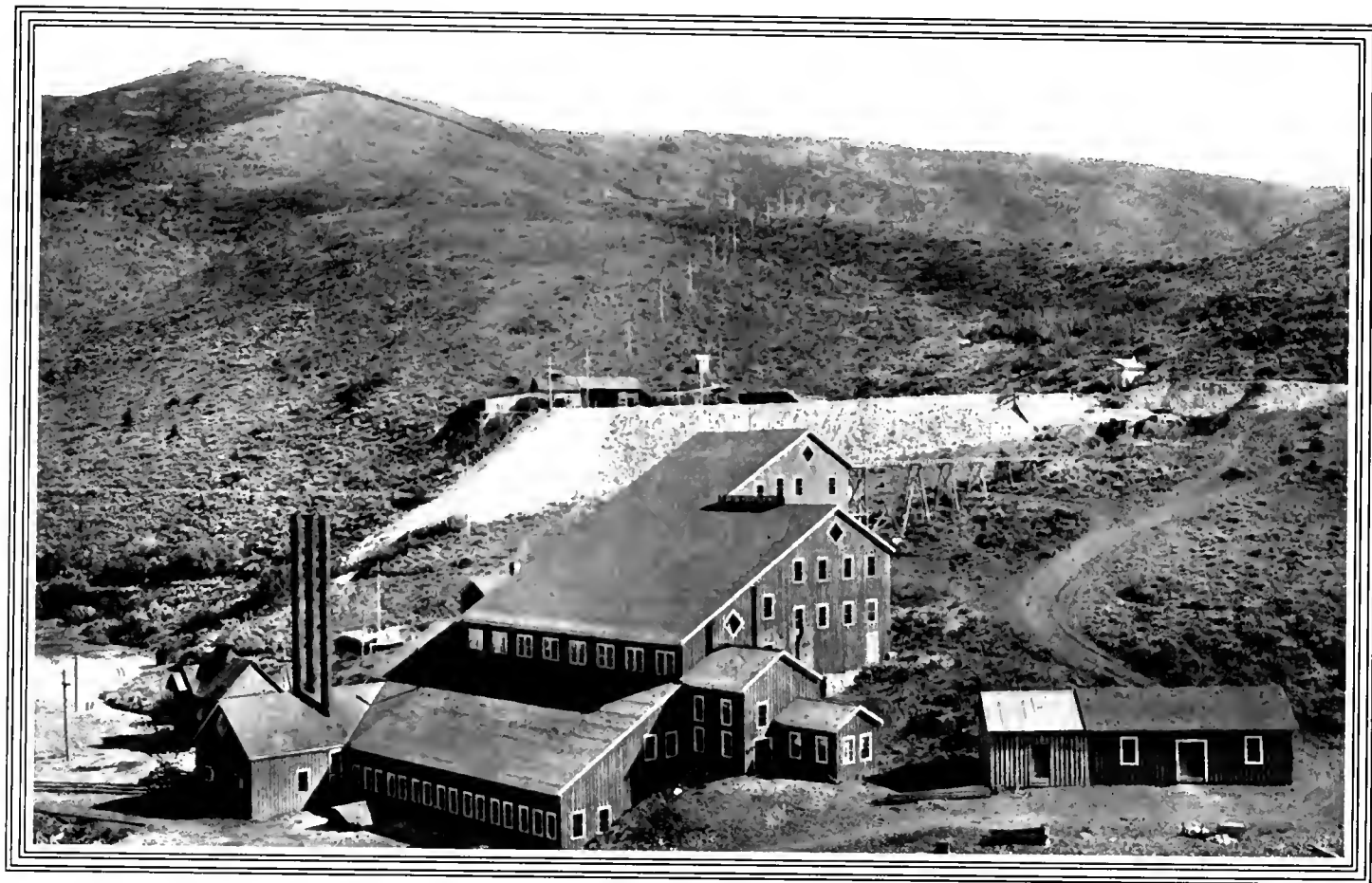
### The Practice of Irrigation

**I**N operation, irrigation is simplicity itself. The water is conveyed, first, in great canals, then in laterals and further subdivisions to the irrigable lands. Along the upper boundary of each field runs the ditch or flume controlled by gates, and from it extend transverse furrows reaching every part of the field. Whenever moisture is needed, the irrigator opens his gate and permits the water to pour down the furrows, controlling its flow by temporary gates or dams.

The immeasurable advantage that he possesses over the farmer dependent upon rainfall is immediately evident. Entirely liberated is he from the caprice of the weather. The operation of a lever, or a few turns of a spade, and at his command is all the moisture that he requires. More than that, he can apply or retard the moisture as best suits the needs of the particular crop under cultivation. For example, as every farmer knows, oats, given an excess of moisture when the oat is "heading," will run largely to straw. This danger is obviated by holding back the water supply at the proper time, so that the instinct of the plant will tend to produce the fullest,



*The Swan Falls Power Plant, which furnishes power for Boise and for the Inter-urban electric line.*



*Quartz Mining in the Boise Mining Belt.*

heaviest heads; for this reason Idaho oats average 40 pounds to the bushel. Again, in the culture of the sugar beet, the application of water is regulated, so as to produce the highest possible degree of saccharine substance. Moreover, the farmer in the irrigated district, unlike his brother who is the plaything of the elements, is never harrassed by untimely rains that impede his harvests or destroy his crops. In every way, and in a sense unknown under ordinary conditions, he is "master of the situation."

## Dry Farming



IN spite of the vast scope of irrigation projects undertaken by the government and by private enterprises, there still remain immense areas of land to which the life-giving canals do not extend. On these lands, under certain conditions, Dry Farming—so-called—is practiced with gratifying results. "Dry Farming" is simply a name for agriculture adapted to regions where the rainfall is slight. The government has become interested in this new undertaking, and has established an experiment farm, where it has been amply proved that certain crops, properly sown and cultivated, so as to make the most of the supply of moisture, will yield good returns. And hundreds of farmers are making an excellent living from the cultivation of lands without artificial watering. Statistics are available showing that, by dry farming, wheat will yield 30 to 61 bushels to the acre, barley 30 bushels, and potatoes 125 bushels.

Lands adapted to dry farming may be bought for a nominal price; there is no water right to pay, and the expense of cultivation is less. The returns are not so great, but the investment is less, and many scientific farmers are turning their attention to this method of cultivating the soil.

## Soil and Products



THE soil of these districts is a disintegrated volcanic ash, in which Nature has secreted all the chemical elements of plant life. Given this, with unlimited sunshine, and the opportune application of sufficient moisture, and the results are such as are absolutely unknown and impossible in non-irrigated districts. And this, too, without measurable diminution of the productive capacity of the soil.

An authoritative statement by a government expert contains this assertion:

"An intelligent utilization of the soil, sunshine and water of Southern Idaho will produce 80 to 125 bushels of oats to the acre; 50 to 100 bushels of wheat; 400 to 600 bushels of potatoes; and other crops in proportion."

It is such facts as these that tell the story of this land with an effectiveness that is far-reaching. We have only to compare the above facts of production of the Idaho farmer with the records made by those living in a less favored section—in the Eastern States, for example—to appreciate fully what a handicap the Eastern farmer is under. Yet the story of the West—of Idaho—is not half told by figures.



Boise City Hall.

An enumeration of the "other crops" which, by ample demonstration are successfully grown on the irrigated soil of Southern Idaho would include barley, rye and buckwheat; alfalfa—the staple crop—clover, timothy and other grasses; nearly every fruit known to horticulture, and embracing apples, pears, peaches, cherries, prunes, plums, Japanese plums, apricots, grapes, strawberries, currants and so-forth. Semi-tropical crops, as peanuts, sweet potatoes and tobacco, have done splendidly. All varieties of melons, including the famed Rockyford cantaloupe, produce abundantly. Garden vegetables of every description are prolifically raised. In fact, it is difficult to find anything that will not grow and thrive under the conditions supplied in these irrigated tracts. Given a soil that is immeasurably rich in the elements essential to plant life, sunshine six days out of the seven, water supplied in unstinted quantities at the time most needed, and other climatic conditions most favorable, and there is no reason why anything that grows at all should not grow here, and grow to a degree of luxuriance unknown and unattainable in less favored localities. And such are the conditions in the irrigated region tributary to Boise.

### Government Lands



LANDS may also be acquired directly from the United States Government under the Desert Land Act, or the Homestead Act. By the former act, desert land, not to exceed 640 acres, may be acquired by paying 25 cents per acre and expending annually \$1.00 per acre on irrigation, etc., for not less than three years, and actually cultivating one-eighth of the entire acreage, or by expending \$1.00 per acre annually for four consecutive years. By the Homestead Law any citizen of the United States, not owning over 160 acres of land, may acquire 160 acres of public land by residing thereon and improving the land for not





*Prunes Grown in Boise Valley. They are unexcelled shippers.*

less than five continuous years. If these holdings come under the "Reclamation Law," the claimant must also repay in annual installments the proportion of the cost of constructing the irrigating works.

## Land Values



TEN acres of irrigated land in Southern Idaho, in the vicinity of Boise, will support a man and his family. That assertion, under any but the most exceptionally unfavorable circumstances, will hold true ninety-nine times out of a hundred. It does not mean, of course, that a man with no equipment whatever, or without the necessary industry, can occupy a ten-acre tract and expect to derive a living therefrom. It does mean, however, that, with average health and energy, a team of horses and the customary implements, any man can support himself and family from ten acres of irrigated land and put by a little nest egg while he is doing it. It is being done by hundreds of families within a ten-mile radius of Boise. It has been ascertained by experience that a ten-acre orchard, if properly conducted, requires the entire time of one man, and he cannot do justice to more land without additional help. This statement, of course, applies to the orchard that is conducted on a commercial basis.

The government statistician suggests 45 acres as the average holding of irrigated lands. An 80-acre farm is a fortune, and when a man's acres are counted in three figures, he is considered "wealthy."

As to land values, a wide range is covered depending as elsewhere upon location, degree of improvement of land,

etc. In weighing these figures, the prospective settler from the East or Middle West must keep in mind the highly productive nature of the soil and impossibility of crop failure.

Improved lands under irrigation can hardly be bought for less than \$50.00 per acre. The best lands devoted to general farming on an "alfalfa basis" run from \$75.00 to \$200.00 per acre. The higher figure is paid for farms a fraction of which is in fruit. Orchard lands run from \$150.00 to \$500.00 per acre.

On the other hand, unimproved land, but with facilities for irrigation may be bought for \$10.00 to \$50.00 per acre. Desert land, about to be reclaimed by the Payette-Boise project can be had for \$10.00 to \$20.00 per acre, to which the \$30.00 (approximately) water right must be added.

## The Region Tributary to Boise



SO far the intent has been to present the general conditions in the great irrigated tracts of Southern Idaho, all of which looks to Boise as its natural center. Hereafter the discussion will be limited to the richest and most attractive portion of this area—if not of the entire Northwest—the Boise Valley, immediately and directly tributary to the city of Boise. The Valley extends in an easterly-westerly direction for 50 miles, and running from 7 to 30 miles in width. Twenty-five years ago the weary homeseekers of an earlier day found the valley a goodly land, inviting them to settle



*The Nourse hog ranch near Boise.*

there to till the soil and establish homes. Since then the "land of promise" has become a "land of fulfillment," and the "Boise Valley" today is a synonym for the highest productivity, under conditions of climate and location

that are little short of perfect.

The bottom lands were irrigated by private canals; but the full value of the bench lands was not appreciated by the early settlers, until the larger enterprises brought the

needed water, and the broad mesas were found to be no less fertile than the highly prized bottoms.

The general statements regarding crops, etc., under the section of "Irrigation" will hold true for the Boise Valley, but true in their highest degree. This is a land of intensive farming, where the orchard of apples and prunes is bringing to its owner a princely income.

To approach the matter somewhat systematically, it may be said that of the 125,000 acres under cultivation in

the Boise Valley, three-sixths is in hay—alfalfa, timothy and clover—two-sixths in grain—largely wheat and oats—and the remainder, one-sixth, in fruit. In addition, a considerable acreage of sugar beets is planted and other crops are raised.

## Grains and Grasses



**W**HEAT of the first quality will run 40 to 60 bushels to the acre; oats, 80 to 120 bushels. The price, of course, varies with the market. Alfalfa, the mainstay of the irrigation farmer, will yield three cuts a year, a total of 6 to 10 tons to the acre. This is worth to him, if not fed, from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per ton in the stack.

Timothy and clover, with two cuts a year, will yield 3 to 5 and 6 tons to the acre, and is worth from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per ton. In both cases excellent pasturage is afforded.

## Horticulture



**T**O the Apple orchardist the Boise Valley offers conditions surpassed by no other region on earth. Neither Hood River nor Rogue River nor Yakima nor any of the far-famed and highly exploited fruit-growing districts afford a more ideal combination of soil, moisture, temperature, altitude and climate. There the "big red apple" attains its perfection in size, color, conformation, flavor and keeping qualities. The favorite



*Y. M. C. A. Building, Boise.*



*Peaches are a very profitable crop in the Boise Valley.*

varieties are the Rome Beauty, Jonathan, Winesap, Arkansas Black, Delaware Red. A sight of a Boise Valley orchard toward picking time, with the ground cultivated and free from weeds, the trees clean and shapely, and boughs bent to earth under a precious burden of rarest fruit, showing no speck or stain, and tinted a deep crimson or a glowing yellow by the generous sun; such a sight is a revelation to the orchardist from New York or Michigan, and cannot but fill him with amazement and envy.

Trees reach full bearing capacity from five to seven years after planting, and average from 8 to 10 boxes of packed fruit to the tree. This fruit always commands the highest market price, in competition with the products of the world, and is shipped successfully and profitably to England and Europe. The price ranges from \$1.75 to \$3.00 and \$3.50 a box. Ten acres of apple trees properly cultivated, sprayed, picked and packed, should return to their owner over \$3,000.00 per year, year in and out. The expense in time and money is very small, and the net income but little below the gross.

## Prunes



**I**N the production of prunes, next to apples, in acreage in the Boise Valley, the facts are still more wonderful. After careful consideration and comparison, it is stated and successfully maintained that in the production of prunes, the Boise Valley takes the palm from the whole world. Not only are they superior in size and quality, but it has been found by frequent proof

that the Boise prune will undergo the effects of packing and long shipment and reach the market in better condition than the prune from any other region. In the past year prunes brought to the seller \$30.00 per ton, loose, net. The favored varieties are Italian, Hungarian, Silver, Golden, Petite. Fifty-two ears of French and Italian prunes shipped from Boise in 1907 brought \$42,000.00 f. o. b.

One orchardist a few miles from the city of Boise, with 40 acres of prunes, takes from them over \$7,500.00 worth of fruit every year.

## Truth That is Stranger—and Better— Than Fiction



**A**NOTHER statement, and one that is not exceptional, but especially significant, is that of a 10-acre plot set out to Italian prunes, cherries and berries. The plot contains a house, barn, the customary outbuildings and vegetable garden. In 1905 it yielded 45,799 pounds of prunes, for which the owner received \$457.99 in the orchard, and \$1,112.00 for the cherries and berries. In 1906, 87,000 pounds of prunes were picked, which brought 1 cent a pound in the orchard—\$870.00—and the other crops yielded about \$800.00. In 1907 the prune crop grew to 89,000 pounds, with the price at 1 1-2 cents a pound—\$1,235.00 for the prunes, which, with the \$1,400.00 which came from the cherries and small fruit, aggregated the very handsome sum of \$2,635.00—gross returns from 10 acres for one year. In addition, the place supported



*Idaho State Capitol building to be erected in Boise.*



*A group of homes in Boise. Boise is known as the City Beautiful.*





*Another Group of Boise Homes.*

chickens, a cow and horse. With the exception of extra help needed during picking time, all the work was done by the owner and his wife. Unfortunately, account was not kept of the sums paid out in this manner, but they were not large, and the net returns were not far from \$2,500.00. So much for an illustration—drawn from life—of the possibilities of a 10-acre fruit farm in the Boise Valley.

### A Commonplace Story



HERE is another story, not so remarkable, and not unusual in any way. In fact, the deponent was not a scientific farmer, not notably ambitious, and his land was hardly the best. It is included simply to show what an average man does on an average farm in the Boise Valley. On the 60 acres in question, the farmer had a little prune orchard of 3 1-2 acres. Twenty-five acres he sowed to oats, which went 90 bushels to the acre. The remainder was put into alfalfa and diversified products, with a little pasture. He fed 5 hogs, 30 goats, 3 cows and 4 horses. His prunes brought him \$620.00, and the total gross returns were \$1,700.00 in cash. He had no regular help, and a goodly part of the sum went into the bank. That is a commonplace story, told by a commonplace farmer to the writer as he was driving through the Valley; but, commonplace as it is, it is significant to the highest degree.

The "moral" of this story is that the land and climate and water in the Boise Valley have joined forces, as it were, to produce the most possible. How well they do is, of

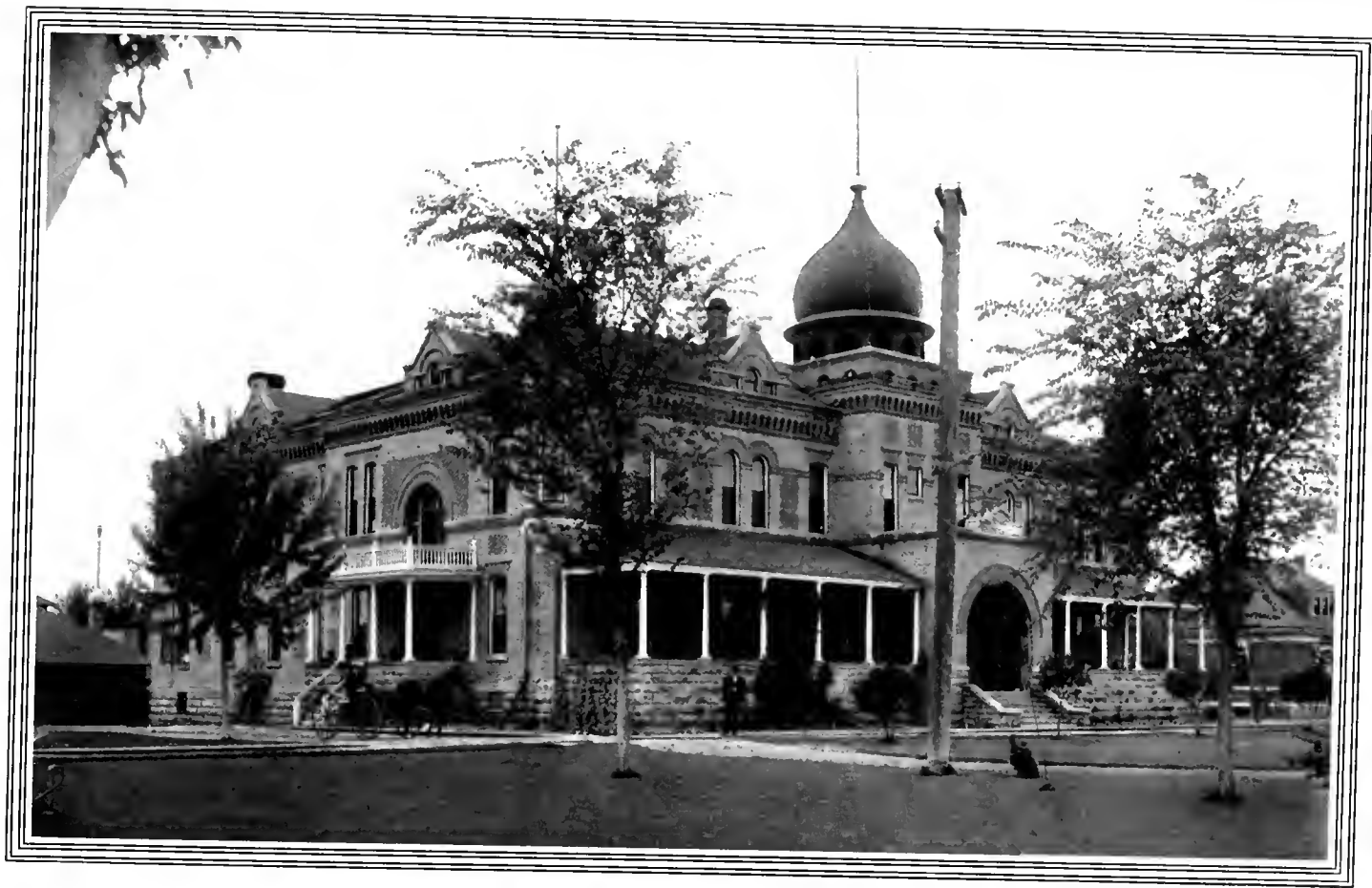
course, in the final analysis a question of the personal equation. One may do better than another—but the average man will do better here than he can in less favored regions. This is the important fact.

In addition to the apples, prunes and cherries already discussed, other fruits do equally well, but are not produced so extensively. Of the small fruits, strawberries have proven a most profitable crop, and are extensively cultivated. For the present season, 1908, the output is a half-million boxes, which will net the grower 8 cents per box. From 1 1-4 acres one man took two crops, the first yielding 12,798 quarts, and the second, marketed as late as November 17th, 2,280 quarts. The total gross income was \$1,196.75.

Some notion of the extent to which horticulture is practiced in the Boise Valley may be gained from the statement that in 1907 537 cars of fruit under ice were shipped to Chicago and points East. Of these 40 cars went to Europe. The value of the crop was \$3,432,000.00. This from a total acreage of 51,876 acres.

For the present season, 1908, 50 carloads of material is needed for packing. This includes 500,000 prune crates, 300,000 apple boxes, 2,000,000 baskets, 5 cars of fruit paper and 1 car of cement coat nails.

Of the other crops grown with notable success the potato is worthy of mention. Five hundred bushels to the acre is not by any means extraordinary. One farmer reports for 1906, six acres planted, with a gross return of \$1,780.00. The following year, from 15 acres \$3,760.00 worth of potatoes were taken. In each year about \$300.00 worth was saved for seed and home use. There are no potato bugs in Idaho.

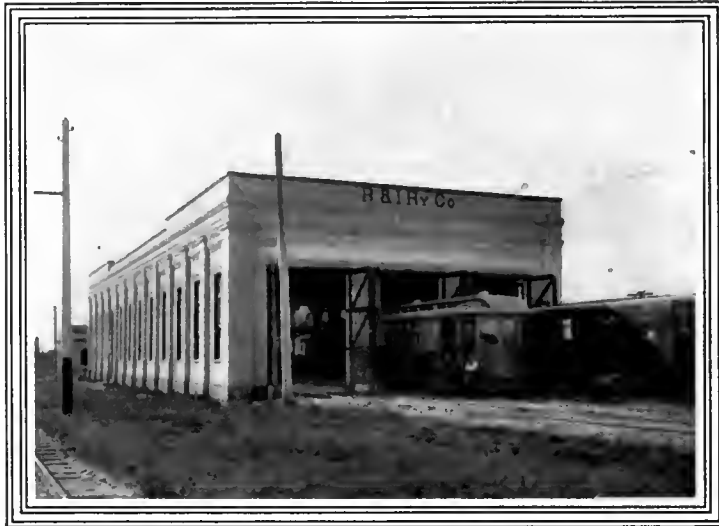


*The Soldiers' Home, Boise.*

## Sugar Beets



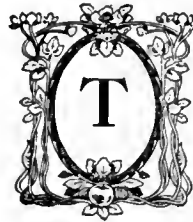
O crop lends itself to cultivation in irrigated districts more readily than the sugar beet. By regulating the supply of moisture, the irrigator can force the beet to develop the highest possible per cent of saccharine matter. Sugar beets will yield 22 tons to the acre with 19.2 per cent of sugar. In the Boise Valley, with an acreage of 26,019 to sugar beets, the total tonnage



*Car barn and sub-station of the Boise and Interurban Ry. Co.*

was 245,940, and the receipts to the farmer \$908,500.00. At Nampa, not far from Boise, a sugar-beet factory that cost a million and a quarter of dollars has been built. Two others are under erection, and the industry which has given such flattering assurance of profit-making is but in its infancy.

## A Summary



HIS much, then, for the products of the soil in the Boise Valley. The most cursory scanning cannot fail to impress the reader with the wonderful productivity of its soil, as demonstrated in the statements for the various products. If he is unfamiliar with conditions in irrigated districts, it is not unlikely that he is incredulous. It is, then, not out of place to repeat that the Boise Valley offers conditions for agriculture that cannot be duplicated in a non-irrigated country, and are equalled by but few of the most favored irrigated districts of America. The statements made are as near the exact truth as can possibly be determined, and the illustrative cases cited are in every case actual, bona fide experiences, reported either by word of mouth or over the signature of the deponent. The only reason the names are withheld is that it is not the purpose of this booklet to advertise any private concern or enterprise. Many of the letters, however, are in the possession of the Boise Commercial Club, and the names will gladly be furnished upon application. The Club will also be glad to give any other information in detail regarding points suggested to the reader by topics in this booklet. It is impossible to cover every point of interest to the homeseeker in a booklet of this character.

## Stock Raising



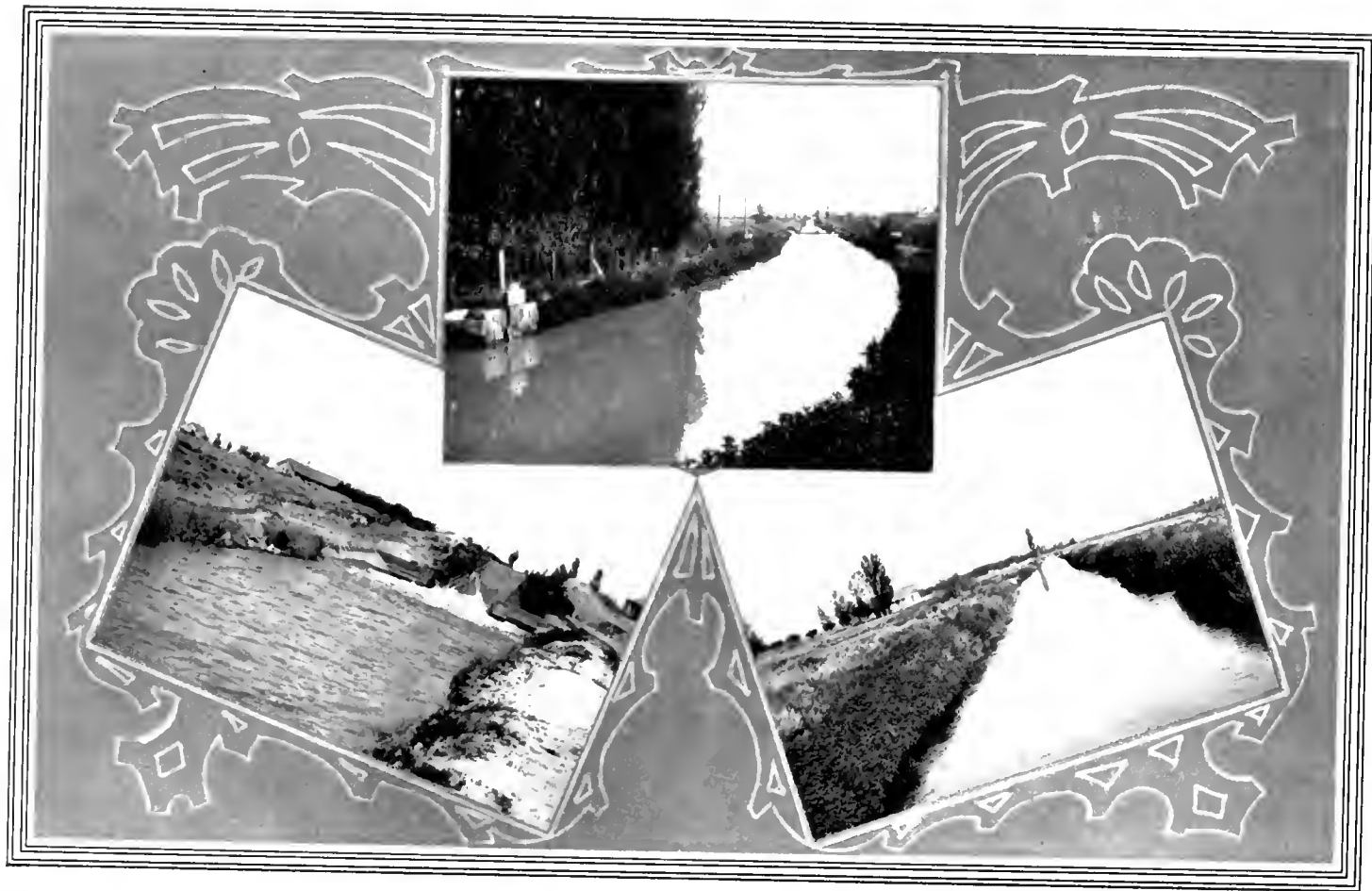
O chapter on the Boise Valley is complete without reference to the stock-raising industry. The absence of severe weather in the Winter, the abundance of rich pasturage, that never dries up in the Summer, and is green nearly the whole 12 months, the quantity of succulent alfalfa and timothy and clover, with the scarcity of flies and other pests, all combine to produce conditions in the Boise Valley eminently suited to the raising of stock to a most gratifying profit.

Of cattle, the favorite breeds are for beef, Grade Herefords, Short Horns, Polled Angus; for milk, Short Horns, Jersey, Holstein; of these there were fed in the Boise Valley in 1907 22,600. The cattle run on the public range from April 1st until November 1st. They are then brought in to the meadow pastures, where they graze until January 1st. Hay is fed until April. Improbable as it may seem to the grazer in humid districts, the cattle are finished in five months from the range on alfalfa and clover, without grain. Hundreds of carloads of these same grass-fed cattle have been shipped to Kansas City and Omaha and topped the market, bringing better prices than the grain-fed steers from the corn belt. The difference in the cost of production is at once evident to the man with the least experience in feeding cattle. Even were it necessary to feed grain the Idaho stockman would have a great advantage. The public ranges are his; his pasture never fails; he does not have to feed for warmth—and that is important; nor do his stock lose flesh from the attacks of flies and insects.

Dairying is at once one of the most profitable and one of the least developed industries in Southern Idaho. All of the conditions recited heretofore as favorable for beef cattle are especially adapted to the dairy cow—a highly developed and delicate member of the bovine family, highly sensitive to environment as she is. In the Boise Valley this “gentlewoman on hooves” finds conditions exactly suited to her taste, and responds with an abundant yield of milk, with the highest per cent of butter-fat. The market for butter is the best in the world. Local con-



*An up-to-date livery barn in Boise.*



*Irrigating ditches, Boise Valley.*

sumption is far in excess of the supply. Southern Idaho produces only 2,000,000 pounds of butter annually, and consumes 7,000,000 pounds, and butter will average 33 1-3 cents per pound, reaching 45 cents in the Winter months. One acre in Idaho will support a cow the year round; three acres are required in Nebraska.

### Livestock



**O**f great magnitude is the sheep-raising industry in Idaho, and the Boise country has its full share. Exact figures are not obtainable, but a conservative estimate would be at 150,000 sheep for this district. Between four and five million pounds of wool are shipped from Boise and neighboring points during a year.

As in the case of cattle, sheep feed on the public range, and then finish on the rich valley pasturage. Southern Idaho ships 25,000,000 pounds of wool every year.

The Boise Valley is a center for the production of fine horses. Over 10,000 head are owned in the district, and many earloads of French and Belgian stallions have been imported, insuring the breeding of the finest grade of draft horses.

Many a farmer has become rich raising hogs, and the Boise farmer is no exception. Hogs simply revel in the rank growth of clover, and are fattened and finished without grain or meal. On one farm a herd of 800 hogs was seen, many ready for the butcher, not one of which had ever seen a kernel of corn. The profit of raising swine under such conditions is manifest.

All members of the feathered tribe do well in the Boise Valley, and the market for fowl and eggs is second to none. Bees find the food they like in the blossoming fields of clover and alfalfa, and fill the hive with a superior white honey.

### Mining



**W**ITHIN the rock-ribbed treasure chests of Idaho, Nature has hoarded untold mineral wealth. Its discovery many years ago first attracted to the state the attention of the world, won her a star in the proud galaxy of the Nation, and still ranks an important factor in her wealth and prosperity. From the mineral veins that ramify throughout the state in every direction have been taken hundred of millions of dollars in gold, silver, lead and copper, and they still yield royal revenues to the pick and drill of the miner. The search of the prospector is crowned with richest rewards. Nearly every stream shows placer gold in commercial quantities. It is said that the "gravel bars of the Snake River contain gold sufficient to retire the National debt and make every citizen of the state of Idaho a millionaire." The ore bodies of this great mineral region seem practically inexhaustible, and new disclosures are constantly being made that add their quota to the mineral wealth of Idaho. In one year the total value of mineral products was \$21,056,076. Last year the various mines returned in dividends (estimated) \$6,500,000. Lead was produced to a total of 225 million pounds; silver to exceed 8 million ounces; copper, 11

million pounds; zinc, nearly 5 million pounds; gold, to the value of one and one-half millions of dollars. The Boise Basin alone has produced \$200,000,000.00 in placer gold. A mineralized belt of untold wealth, several hundred miles in length, extends within six miles of Boise. In fact, the city is surrounded by valuable mining territories. Near at hand are extensive tracts of gravel beds, which by actual test, have shown big values in gold, and which are well adapted to dredging, and which will yield enormous profits when subjected to this method. In addition to the auriferous veins and dykes that seam the Boise Basin, there is one lode deposit which yielded two million dollars in bullion when worked to the shallow depth of 400 feet.

Practically within the environs of the city there are promising deposits that have been subjected to profitable operation. At the Big Giant Mine several thousand feet of development have produced good returns. Two thousand feet of development in the Ironsides Mine have yielded ore ranging from \$30.00 to \$70.00 per ton. The "Twentieth Century," the Picket Pin, the Celtic and other projects have demonstrated the profitable nature of their properties. The Pearl district is noteworthy for some fine deposits, extensively developed. The many mines of Owyhee County, 60 miles to the south, are famous for their permanency and their rich deposits. For 40 years they have averaged \$1,000,000.00 per year. In the "Seven Devils" region, 100 miles to the north, valuable prospects have been made, that, with the accessibility that will follow railroad facilities now under construction, will yield richly. These are but a few of the many that might be mentioned to illustrate the "unsunned treasures" of Southern Idaho.

Although Boise is hardly a "mining town," yet the city profits immensely from the production of mineral wealth of the state. As the financial and distributing point, much of the business of the mines is done there, contributing generously to the prosperity of the city. A great part of the supplies for the mining camps are shipped from Boise, and large wagon trains may be seen emerging from the city, freighted with machinery, tools, powder, foodstuffs and general supplies for the isolated camps and minor distributing points. The United States Assay Office, located at Boise, received in 1907 1,576 deposits of gold bullion. The deposits vary from \$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00 annually.

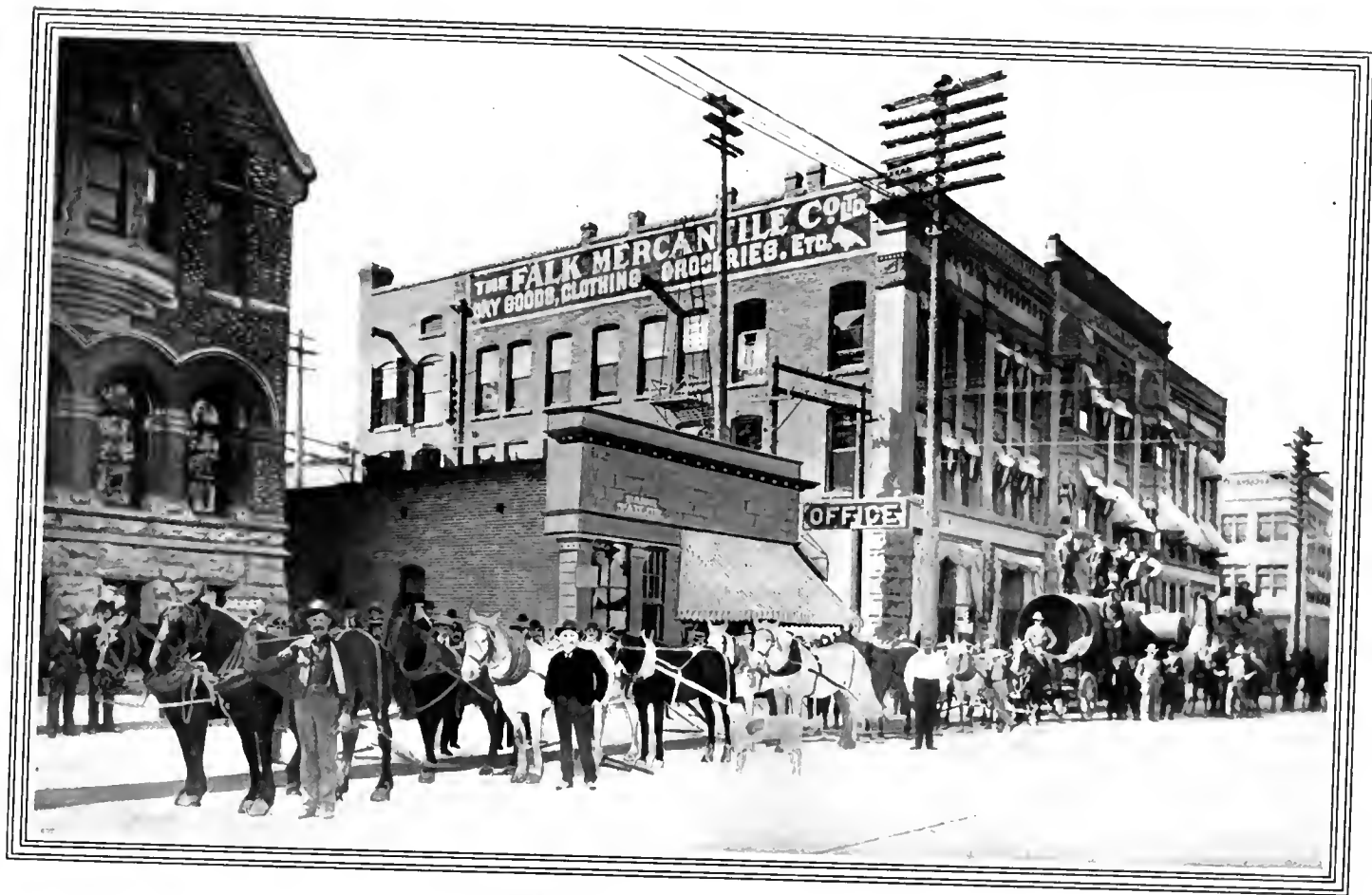
As to the acquisition of mineral lands, they are open to entry; first, as a quartz claim, 1,500 feet in length and 600 feet in width; or a placer claim of 20 acres. The annual expenditure of \$100.00 in improvements is required.

## Timber



IDAHO possesses 20,000,000 acres of timber lands, estimated in value at \$1,125,000,000.00. Some of the finest bodies of fir, pine, white and yellow hemlock and cedar in the world are standing within her boundaries. An authority on timber has estimated the standing timber at 57,500,000,000 feet. This includes the government reserves. Scattered throughout the state are 300 sawmills—one said to be the largest in the world—engaged in reducing the great logs to lumber. Under the section on the City of Boise is found a statement of the mills operating near the city.





*Machinery leaving Boise for the Mines.*

## Water Power



O statement of the potential resources of the state would be complete without some reference to the magnificent water power afforded by her many streams. The Snake, Boise, Payette, Weiser and a score of other rivers possess the volume and the fall necessary to develop power sufficient to turn the wheels of



*Lumber Mill, Boise*

the world's commerce. Here, too, are favorable sites for building dams. In fact, the utilization of this incalculable power is entirely feasible, needing only the action of capital for its development. Already several plants draw their power from the harnessed torrents of the river. At Swan Falls, on the Snake River, 25 miles south of the city, 10,000 horse power is developed, applied to the operation of the Interurban Railroad and to furnishing light for Nampa and Caldwell. On the Payette River, 21 miles from Boise, the Horse Shoe Bend Power Plant develops 2,000 h. p., supplying light for the city. The Barber Lumber Mill develops 1,000 h. p., utilized to operate its own plant, and transmitted to one of the street railways and for lighting purposes. A project at Oxbow, on the Snake, proposes to take 30,000 actual horse power from the river, to be used for power and lighting in near-by communities. And this is but the beginning.

## Boise the Head and Center



O much, then, for the resources of the country tributary to the city of Boise. Certainly the significant question, "What is back of Boise," is exhaustively satisfied. Everything is back of Boise—such marvelous magnitude and such tremendous possibilities that in their aggregate, the mind utterly fails to grasp them! And of it all Boise is the acknowledged head. Every acre that is reclaimed by an irrigating ditch adds to its wealth. Every ounce of gold taken from the mines of Idaho, every tree felled, every horse power de-



*Entrance Pierce Park, on Boise and Interurban Electric Line.*

veloped, makes for the progress and prosperity of the metropolis—Boise. This is merely the working out of a natural and beneficent law. The statement is not made to deprecate the standing of any other community. Idaho has hundreds of progressive towns, sharing the common prosperity and playing their part in the development of

the state. But none of them is a competitor of Boise. None challenges its proud place as metropolis.

Great as is the prestige that attaches to the position of capital of the sovereign state of Idaho, of far greater importance is the strategic position held by Boise as the financial center and principal distributing point between

Salt Lake City on the east and Portland on the west. Conceive, if you can, the significance of the fact: its value to Boise's banks, wholesale houses, its corporations and its business men.

Granted that this vast area is an undeveloped one, it is also true that, by reason of the stupendous reclamation of desert land, and its rapid occupancy by settlers, this region is developing far more rapidly than other sections of the United States. Indeed, it is doubtful if any other section of corresponding area has ever made such rapid progress. Had this growth occurred simultaneously with the development of other regions, as Western Oregon, Southern California, et al., Boise would today be a city of 200,000 inhabitants. That she will reach that mark and exceed it, is the confident belief of every one at all familiar with the conditions that make cities grow. Today Boise numbers between 28,000 and 30,000 people, all enjoying to the highest degree the health and prosperity of their fair city. If "position is power, and the right place on the map a guarantee of greatness," Boise must be destined to become one of the great cities of the West. This is the inevitable conclusion reached by all who give the question careful consideration, and here, again, for the farmer, the banker, the business man, the situation spells "opportunity." Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine a condition of life and environment at once more attractive and more intrinsically prophetic of future greatness. For this is not only Boise and Idaho, but it is a part of the great West—toward which the "course of empire" has been making for centuries past and which, unless all signs fail, is soon to come into its own as the most attractive, the most fertile and the most wonderful part of the world. Let us now look at Boise as a city in more detail.

## "Boise the Beautiful"



BOISE THE BEAUTIFUL" is not a meaningless catchword, but an expression coined in the mint of reality. The first impression of the visitor to Boise is that of the physical loveliness of the city—a loveliness due in part to the endowments of a beneficent nature—an environment that provides a fit setting—and in part to the municipal pride of the citizen. The broad streets, paved and kept scrupulously clean; the numerous shade trees; the many beautiful homes, surrounded by well-groomed lawns and beds of blooming flowers; the splendid appearance of the business blocks; together with the total absence of those disreputable shacks and eye-sores that destroy the beauty of many a city. All these things combine to produce a picture of loveliness that clings to the memory as a permanent impression.

Boise is a wholesale and manufacturing center of considerable importance to the Northwest generally, and of first rank in the Inland Empire. It has 18 wholesale houses, which handle practically all lines but drugs. During the past six months of 1908 two new houses, with a combined capital of \$200,000.00, were established there by outside people. New money such as this is constantly coming into the city from many different sources. The wholesale business of Boise from June, 1907, to June, 1908, was \$4,310,000.00, the pay roll during that time was \$280,290.00, and the number of men employed 271, an average of \$1,034.00 to the man. The total capital invested in the wholesale business is \$1,216,700.00.



*Churches, Boise.*

Boise's manufacturing business is now but a pigmy to what it will be in ten years; nevertheless, its size is already commendable, and it grows rapidly. Electric power is cheap there, power lines which will transmit to exceed 200,000 horse power are headed for Boise, and there is already over 40,000 horse power ready for use there. This is generated by the water falls in that vicinity. The total value of Boise's manufactured products during the year ending June, 1908, was 1,734,284.00, the capital stock invested \$6,160,230.00, the pay roll \$529,685.00, and the number of men employed 625. These figures partially answer the question, What is behind Boise? They are taken from the statements of the companies.



*One of Boise's Industrial Enterprises*

## Climate



**T**HAT climatic conditions are a big asset in the success of any community, none will deny. Of course, men will live wherever is afforded the opportunity to make a living; but, other things being equal, surely any rational man or woman would prefer to live in a country where six days out of the seven are sunny days; where the Winters are without the severe cold that bites to the very marrow, the Summers without the extreme heat that enervates and prostrates, and where there are no heavy winds or severe storms, floods or tornadoes.

The following statement, prepared by the U. S. Weather Bureau, at Boise, conveys statistical information of weather conditions for Boise and the near-by country:

The climate of Boise is much milder than that of places in the same latitude east of the Rocky Mountains. The records kept at the local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau show the mean temperature for the year to be 51 deg., which is only about 1 deg. lower than the mean for Springfield, Illinois. Comparison with the distribution of temperature throughout the year, however, shows that the average January in Boise is 3 deg. cooler than Springfield. The temperature occasionally, about once in three years, goes a little below zero, but at such times there is almost entire absence of wind, and very little discomfort results. Often there are long periods in the Winter months where the temperature does not fall to the freezing point. The mean minimum temperature in Winter is about the same as that at Fredericksburg, Va., or Stillwater, Okla. Occasionally the temperature goes above 100 deg. in Sum-



*Teams leaving Boise for Thunder Mountain mining district.*



*The building in the upper left hand corner is the Carnegie Library, Boise. The other buildings are Boise public schools.*





*Idanha Hotel, Boise.*

mer, but this is for only a short time in the afternoon, the temperature falling rapidly after sunset. The nights are ordinarily delightfully cool, the mean temperature for July being about the same as that at Duluth, Minn. The high temperatures are accompanied by very low relative humidity, and sunstroke is practically unknown.

	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	YEAR
Mean Temperature .....	33	36	43	50	57	64	73	71	62	53	43	33	51
Mean Maximum Temperature.....	38	44	52	62	69	78	89	87	77	65	52	40	63
Mean Minimum Temperature .....	26	27	34	39	45	51	57	56	47	41	33	26	40
Average Preeipitation .....	1.89	1.42	1.44	1.18	1.29	0.88	0.18	0.16	0.41	1.28	0.86	1.72	12.71
No. of days with rain or snow.....	13	10	14	7	7	5	2	2	3	8	10	11	92
No. of clear days.....	5	6	6	8	9	13	22	19	18	15	8	8	137
No. of partly cloudy days.....	8	8	10	11	13	11	7	9	8	8	9	8	110
No. of cloudy days.....	18	14	15	11	9	6	2	3	4	8	13	15	118
Average Hourly Wind Velocity...	4	5	6	6	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	5

The absence of high winds is an important feature of the climate of Boise. The average movement of the wind is about five miles an hour, or about one-third less than the average at Denver. Windows may safely be left open nearly the year round, and discomfort from the wind is almost unknown.

The accompanying table of meteorological data is taken from the records of the local office of the U. S. Weather Bureau at Boise, and covers the period from the opening of the office, in December, 1898, to the close of May, 1908.

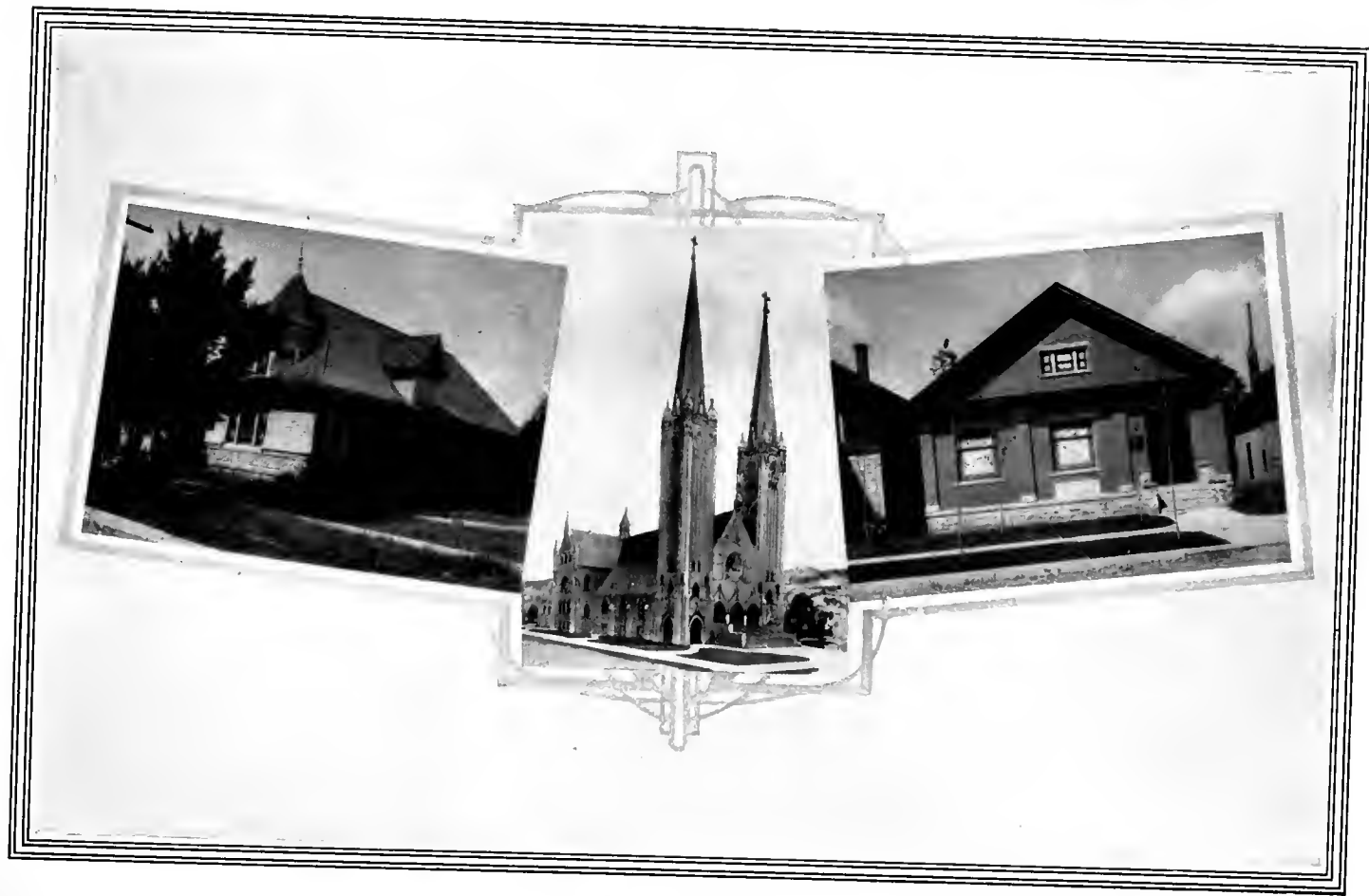
The healthfulness of Boise is proverbial. With an altitude of 2,800 feet, the air is clear and invigorating. Many

a sufferer from the East or Middle West has found here a relief from the malaria and the catarrhal affections that have made life miserable for him. Among the soldiers at Boise Barracks the U. S. Government has found a lower death rate and a greater freedom from disease than at any other Army post in the United States.

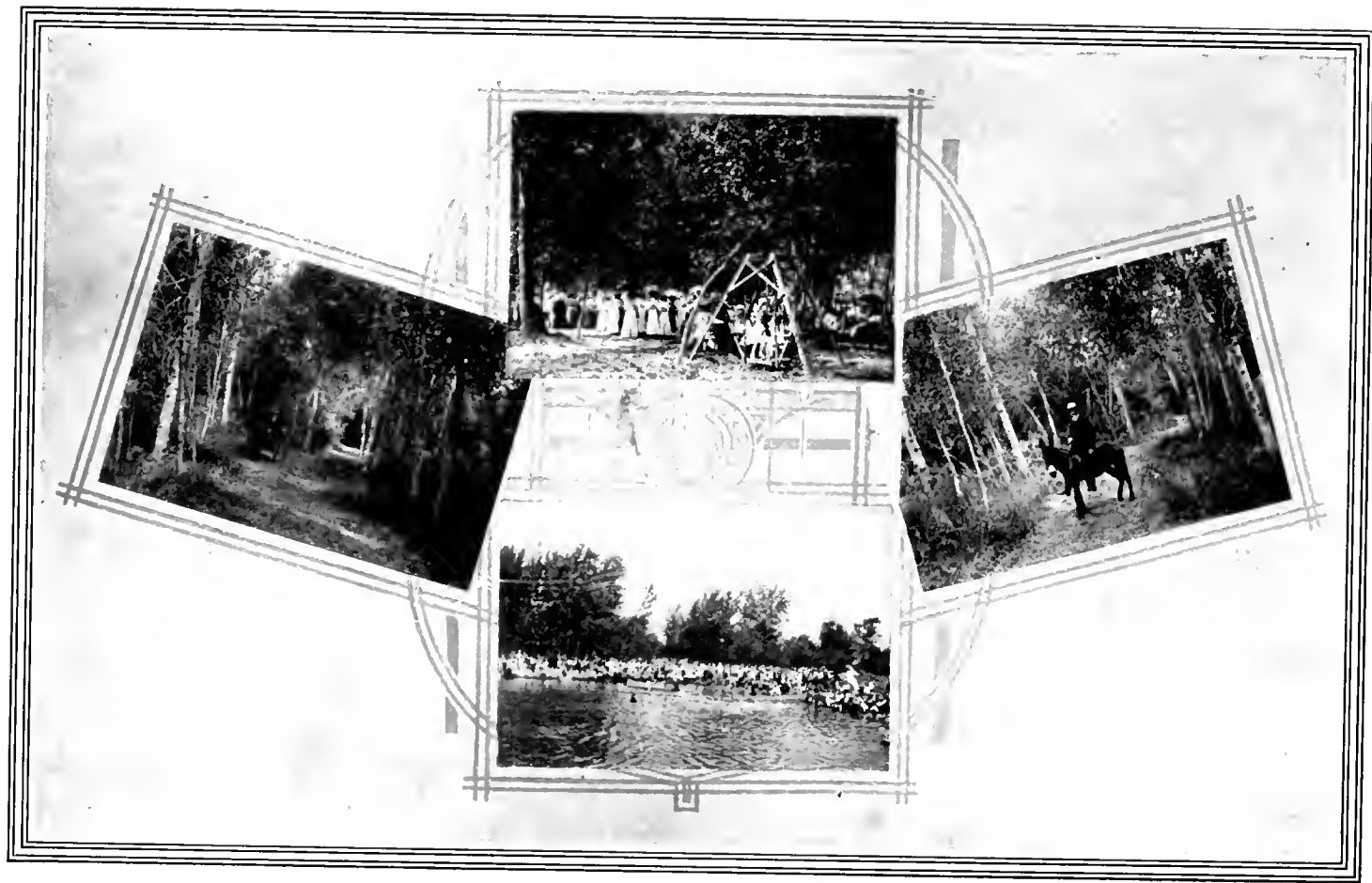
## Railroads



BOISE is on a branch of the Oregon Short Line, 19 miles from the main line at Nampa. Survey has been made for the construction of the main line directly through Boise. Promoters are now working on a project from Boise to Butte, and from Boise to Winnemucca, with great promise of success. If built, this line will place Boise but 400 miles from Butte and 600 miles from San Francisco. It will connect at Butte with



*Churches, Boise.*



*Scenes in Pierce Park, Boise.*

the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific, the Milwaukee & St. Paul and the C., B. & Q. At Winnemucca it would connect with the Western Pacific and the Southern Pacific, thus making a connecting link for the great trans-continental lines of the North and South. Another one of the great trans-continental systems is headed in her direction. With the building of these lines, Boise will possess the railroad facilities that she deserves.

### Facts About Boise



BOISE has four miles of streets with hard surface pavements—*asphalt and bitulithic*—and 50 miles of cement sidewalk. An excellent fire department is supported, with three stations, provided with every device for controlling fires. The total loss by fire for 1907 was only \$12,500.00—a showing so satisfactory

that a decrease of 20 cents per \$100.00 was made by the insurance people. An efficient police force is maintained, and crime and vice are reduced to the lowest degree. The Sunday closing of saloons is strictly enforced. In fact, municipal conditions are of the best, quite free from the corruption that has tainted the fair name of so many cities of our land.

The streets are adequately lighted by electricity, which is also furnished for domestic use. Water, pure and cold, is supplied, and what is indeed a unique distinction, natural hot water flows from subterranean reservoirs, and is used for heating and domestic purposes in the business houses and homes of the city. This water, at a temperature of 170 degrees, is taken from three artesian wells,

394 feet, 405 feet and 455 feet deep respectively, producing 800,000 gallons every 24 hours. This water is used for heating many of the residences and business blocks of the city, and many of the streets of the city are sprinkled with it.

This water, tempered to the desired degree, is used in Boise's famous Natatorium—an institution that is, properly enough, a feature of the city. In this palatial structure, of Moorish architecture, is housed the second largest indoor swimming tank in America. The plunge alone is 122 feet by 60 feet, of graded depth. With 60 private rooms for the bathers, commodious parlors, reading room, smoking and billiard rooms, banquet hall, a spacious ballroom,



*Wholesale House, Boise.*

and the environment of beautiful landscape, the Natatorium contributes in no small degree to the enjoyment of life in Boise.

To say of a city that it is a "city of homes" is to be guilty of unoriginality. Perhaps the homes of Boise are no better than those of other cities. But the least that can be said is decidedly to their credit, and one of the lasting impressions of Boise is of the attractiveness, the architectural fitness, and the undeniable "hominess" of its residences. Its business streets are especially noteworthy, lined as they are with modern commercial buildings, artistically designed and substantially constructed. The Overland Building, Boise City National Bank Building, Sonna Block, Idanha Hotel, Idaho Trust and Savings Building, etc., etc., are admirable types of modern municipal architecture.

The hotel facilities are at least equal to those of any city of its size, but further provision for its guests and accommodation for the great number of tourists who throng to Boise is being made in the prospective erection of a magnificent new hotel to cost \$300,000.00. A well-located site covering an entire block has been purchased at a cost of \$100,000.00, and work is to be started, in all probability, before this publication reaches the public. Under erection also is the new Pinney Theater, at a cost of \$100,000.00, which will provide adequately for the many first-class companies that visit the city. There is building, too, the one million dollar State Capitol to furnish a suitable home for the Solons of Idaho; of dignified beauty is the U. S. Federal Building, holding the P. O., the Weather Bureau, Land Office, etc. Though this building has been completed but three years, the city has already outgrown

it, and Congress has appropriated \$125,000 for an addition. The Assay Office (referred to under section on Mining), with its setting of stately trees and wide expanse of velvety sward, always attracts attention, as does the Public Library, built in 1905 at a cost of \$25,000.00, containing 7,500 volumes, a well-equipped reading-room, etc.

Many of these buildings, as well as the residences of the city, are built of an excellent native building stone, quarried a few miles from Boise, or from the superior pressed brick, manufactured from clay found in the vicinity.

## Churches and Schools



ALL of the prominent church denominations are to be found in Boise, some with two or three distinct organizations, and a great many of the less prominent sects have churches. Many of these are housed in edifices of marked beauty and support ministers of far more than ordinary ability. A flourishing branch of the Y. M. C. A. exists in Boise, owning their own building and equipment, and with a membership of 400. This worthy organization receives the heartiest support of the community.

The citizens of Boise feel that they may justly be proud of their schools. The eight school buildings represent a property of \$400,000.00. Eighty-two teachers are employed, 15 in the High School. These receive an aggregate salary of \$70,000.00. None but a college or a normal graduate is engaged. Five years ago there were 2,400 pupils in the schools; now there are 4,000. In that period



*Boise City National Bank Building. The Boise Commercial Club occupies the entire fourth floor.*

the teaching force has been doubled. There are 325 in the High School at the present time, with a graduating class for 1908 of 41. High School graduates are accredited in all colleges that receive on credentials. Domestic Science and Manual Training are taught, and military drill has been introduced.

In addition to the public schools, excellent academies for young women are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches.



*The Boise Sash and Door Factory.*

In a word, the school facilities of Boise are of the best, and neither pains or expense is spared to provide equipment and instruction that is inferior to none.

## Other Institutions



CONTRIBUTING not a little to the picturesqueness of the city is the military post maintained there. The U. S. Government has recently expended \$135,000.00 for the improvement of the Barracks, and has appropriated \$200,000.00 more for the same purpose. The fact that the lowest mortality of any Army post in America was reported from Boise Barracks has been previously mentioned. Just outside the city there is situated also the Home for Veterans, where the brave soldier of a previous day makes his last bivouac, awaiting the final "taps." The State Penitentiary and the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind are also located at Boise.

In the fortunate possession of so many sightly public buildings, Boise presents a metropolitan appearance, suggesting a population several times greater than she actually claims.

There can be found no truer index of the prosperity of a city than its Postoffice records. For 1906 the total postal receipts for Boise, including deposits from subsidiary offices, were \$87,356.00. For 1907, they were \$107,464. That is an annual increase of \$20,000.00, or about 25 per cent. Another significant comparison is that of the money order business done in 1898 and 1907. In the former year it amounted to \$957,063.00; in the latter \$1,989,075.00. In other words, the money order business



more than doubled in nine years. Such evidence of the growth of a city is incontrovertible.

## Electric Lines and Parks



BOISE is served by three street railways, operating about 80 miles in and about the city. Two interurban lines are included, one to Caldwell, already completed, and to Nampa, which is nearing completion; and other lines and extensions are projected, and will surely be built. It is only a matter of a few years when Boise will be the nucleus for a network of electric lines, for the country is especially adapted to support a thickly settled population, which, with the many villages, will provide ample business for the electric lines.

The Boise and Inter-urban Railway, operating the line to Caldwell, possesses an equipment inferior to none in the land. It has a private right of way, securely fenced, double trolley, heavily ballasted roadbed, with 72-pound rails. A 22,000 volt alternating current is used, and the cars, of the latest design, attain a speed of 45 and 55 miles an hour. In addition to the passenger business, freight, express and mail are carried.

On the line is situated Pierce Park, which has recently been added to the attractions of the city. It is a beautiful wooded tract of 182 acres, of which 35 acres are occupied by a charming little lake, equipped with rowboats and launches. In the park the act of man has effectively utilized the provisions of nature. Bosky copses invite the visitor to rest in their shade. Pleasant roads and paths lead

to forest glades, opening at every turn a new vista of sylvan loveliness. Places for picknickers, refreshment booths, a dancing pavilion, etc., are to be found, but care has been taken not to intrude upon the natural beauty of the spot, which is a conspicuous acquisition to the attractiveness of the city.

Boise is thus characterized by that which makes the struggle for existence not only extraordinarily productive, but attractive as well. It has been shown, we believe, that the land yields forth its increase in bountiful measure.



*A View in the Wholesale District, Boise.*

## Hunting and Fishing



**A**t Boise the sportsman enjoys the fullest opportunity for the pursuit of his favorite pastime. Within a short driving distance from the city are Shaffer Creek, Harris Creek, Canyon Creek, Long Tom, Cottonwood, Rattle Snake, etc., and any one of which will yield the angler the rarest sport in the world. All the favorite varieties of trout are here, including the Rainbow and Dolly Varden, and a few hours' fishing will yield the angler more than he can carry. In June, July and August the fish answer readily to the fly.

For the hunter the Quail, Fool Hen, Jack Snipe, Sage Hen, Ducks and Geese abound; and, if he seek larger game, a short trip to the mountains will bring him in reach of deer and bear, with cougars and bobcats to add zest to the sport.

## The Business of Boise



**I**n previous connection, stress has been put on the importance of Boise as a financial center and distributing point. Boise has six banks whose deposits aggregate over \$6,000,000.00 and "clears" Idaho, Wyoming and Western Utah.

The wholesale business of Boise has shown remarkable strides during the past three years. The investment of new capital, and the aggressive policies pursued by the jobbers have been instru-

mental in opening up new territory from which Boise was formerly excluded, owing to conditions of freight rates.

The territory covered by Boise now extends from Pocatello on the East to Baker City, Oregon, on the West, and South as far as Owyhee, Nevada, and North into Pollock and Goff, Idaho.

There are some fifty-seven traveling men who travel from Boise, and do business of approximately six million dollars per annum.

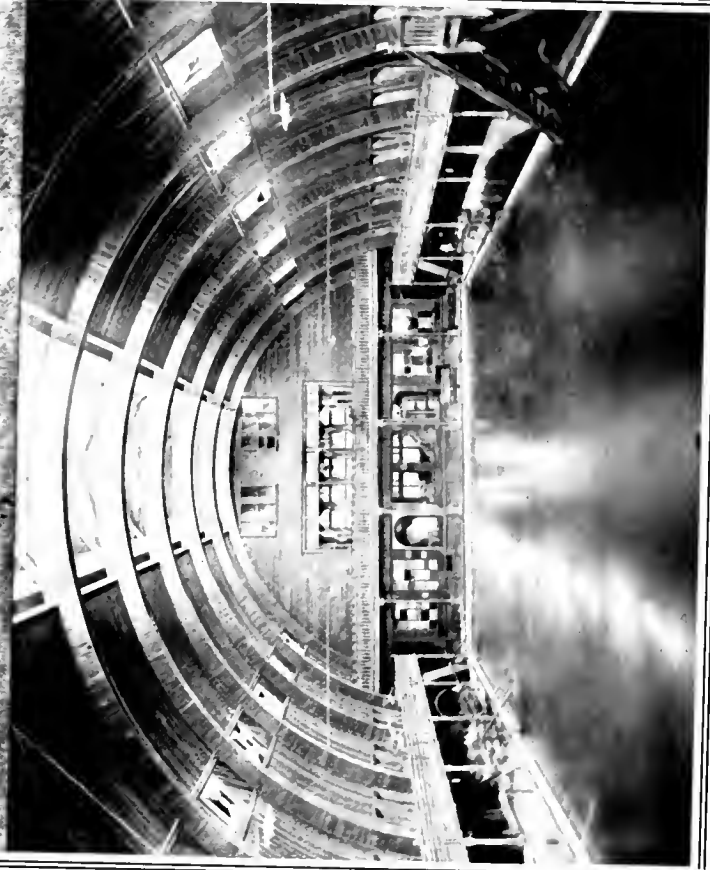
Some picturesque features, not usually seen in jobbing centers, are to be observed in Boise at certain times of the year, when merchandise is loaded out on pack trains for distant points in the mountains which are reached only by narrow trails.

Boise has all sorts of communication with the outer world by electric and steam lines and the old-fashioned stage coach, which still continues to roll into this picturesque city.

Although Boise is not primarily a manufacturing center, yet there are here many thriving concerns producing raw and finished lumber, sash, door and fixtures, boxes, pressed brick, beer, liquors, harness, saddlery, roofing, cigars, candy, oil, glue, etc., etc. Of these the lumber mills, of which there are five, are the most prominent. The largest has a capacity of 130,000 feet daily, and in 1907 shipped 700 cars of lumber and finished products. Other statistical matter might be included, but to small purpose: The opportunity for the capitalist along manufacturing lines is great. Here we have the raw material of greatest variety and in unlimited quantity; power is inexhaustible in the rushing rivers, and a market that is already great and every day assuming greater proportions. These condi-



*Private schools and academies in Boise.*



*Natatorium and famous plunge at Boise.*

tions create **opportunity**, and the man with money or the man with brains and energy will find here an unparalleled field where the investment of capital or of energy will yield richest returns.

### Final Word



UCH, then, is the story of Boise and the Boise country—a story that is full of the extraordinary, the marvelous, and yet a story composed of truths and facts, uncolored in the telling. Whether the narrative of the story of Boise is well done or ill, depends of course, upon the writer. But be it good, or bad, the **facts** are there, and in those **facts** there is a message for every man or woman who finds himself dissatisfied with life under present conditions. He may not even be dissatisfied, but open to the honest conviction as to the merits of a land that offers to him an **opportunity** to live under conditions more advantageous, more delightful than those of his pres-

ent home. Life is, at best, a struggle, but it is certainly the inalienable privilege of every man to select a place where conditions are most in his favor, where the chances for success are the best. Whether the reader dwell in a factory town in New England, a New York flat or a farm in the Mississippi Valley, to him a welcome, hearty and generous, is extended. If he has failed elsewhere in the struggle against unfair odds, here he can begin life anew under circumstances that are anything but unfavorable. If he wishes to give his sons and daughters a better chance than he had, surely none better can be found.

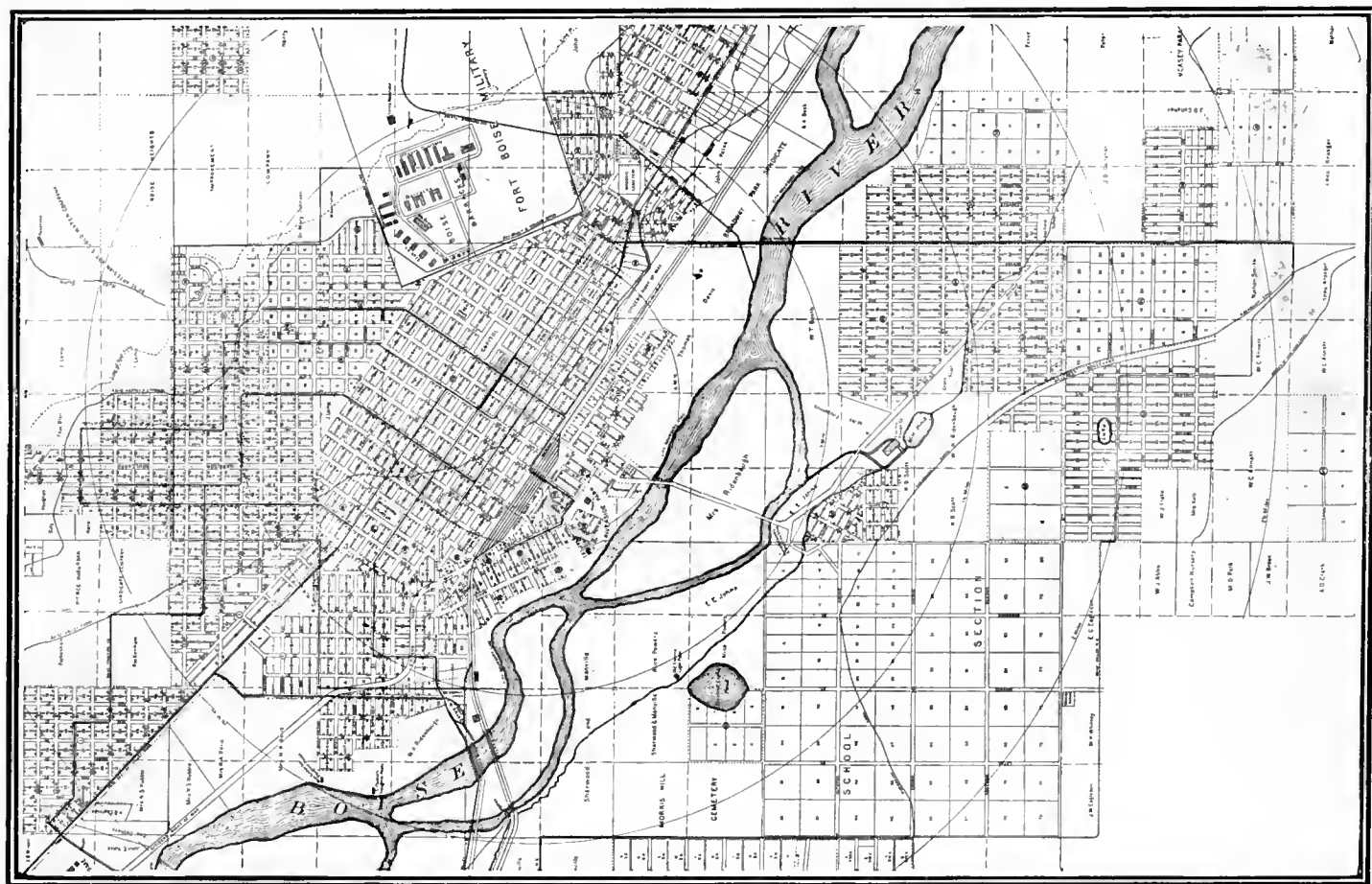
The chance to invest your money, or your brains, or the strength of your hands to best advantage, and to live under conditions most favorable for health and happiness: that, in a word, Boise offers. That is the message of this booklet. Its import is certain; its meaning clear. Let its lesson sink deep into your heart. If it grows into a conviction, do not hesitate, but **act**, and to your dying day you will never cease to rejoice that you found a home, health and happiness in the beautiful City of Boise, Idaho.



*Note.—The illustration on the fourth page of the cover shows the Barber Power Plant, Lumber Mill, and dam across the Boise River, near Boise.*



*Winter Grazing on Davis Ranch near Boise.*



Map of Boise, Idaho.

